

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 USIA-01 /024 W
-----300318Z 027519 /73 S

R 291440Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2365
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSULATE MUNICH
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 0811

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPN, OGEN, XH
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE MOVE OF RFE/RL TO US

REF STATE 057405

1. INTERPRETATION OF MOVE: WE HAVE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON A POSSIBLE MOVE BY RFE/RL: WE WOULD EXPECT THE CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERSHIP TO ATTEMPT TO PORTRAY SUCH A MOVE AS A VICTORY FOR THE EAST AND LAUNCH THE USG FOR THE TRANSFER OF FACILITIES TO THE US AND AGAINST AN INTENSIFIED CAMPAIGN AGAINST CONTINUED PRESENCE OF THE TRANSMITTERS ON EUROPEAN SOIL. THIS ATTEMPT WOULD NOT BE CONVINCING TO INTELLECTUALS AND OTHER POTENTIAL LISTENERS, IN OUR VIEW, PROVIDED CLEAR EXPLANATIONS WERE PROVIDED WELL IN ADVANCE.

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2. EFFECT ON STATIONS: WE DO NOT HAVE THE FEEL THAT WARSAW (WARSAW 2066) AND BUCHAREST (BUCHAREST 2100) HAVE FOR HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR THE RFE CZECH AND SLOVAK SERVICES TO BE CLOSE TO THEIR POTENTIAL AUDIENCE OR FOR HOW MUCH PROGRAM MATERIAL DEPENDS ON QUICK ACCESS TO RECENT EMIGRES AND MEDIA. AS FOR THE FLAVOR OF THE

BROADCASTS, WE THINK THE BENEFITS OF A MOVE TO THE US IN PERMITTING THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW BLOOD AND NEW APPROACHES IN THE PROGRAM STAFF WOULD PROBABLY COUNTER-BALANCE SOMEWHAT THE LIKELY LOSS OF AN IDENTIFIABLE EUROPEAN TONE TO THE BROADCASTS.

3. REGIME HOSTILITY: WE THINK GOC HOSTILITY AGAINST THE RADIOS STEMS MAINLY FROM BROADCAST CONTENT, BUT ALSO, TO A SUBSTANTIVE DEGREE IN THE CASE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, FROM THE CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT BY THE RADIOS OF ANTI-COMMUNIST EE EMIGRES. A CHANGE IN LOCATION WOULD SIMPLY INCREASE RETIME HOSTILITY AGAINST THE US AS THE NEW SOURCE FROM WHICH THE BROADCASTING TAKES PLACE.

4. CONCLUSION: THE PRIMARY NON-FINANCIAL ADVANTAGE WE CAN SEE FOR MOVING THE STATIONS TO THE US IS THAT IT WOULD GET THEM OUT OF MUNICH AND AWAY FROM THE INFLUENCE OF SOME OF THE MORE CONTROVERSIAL EMIGRE ORGANIZATIONS HEADQUARTERED THERE. THIS WOULD, HOWEVER, BE AT THE EXPENSE OF INCREASING THE SHARE OF THE PROPAGANDA FLAK WHICH THE US NOW RECEIVES ABOUT THE RADIOS AND, CONCOMITANTLY, REDUCING THE SHARE WHICH THE FRG AND OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS WOULD OTHERWISE BEAR.
BYRNE

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